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School Committee Minutes 03/31/2009

Approved by School Committee May 26, 2009

**THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2009
8:00 P.M.**

Present: Denise Burns, Chair, Leba Heigham
Joe Curran, Vice Chair, Jeff Thielman
Ronald Spangler, Secretary Joe Curro

Interim Superintendent: Kathleen Bodie
Chief Financial Officer: Sue Mazzarella
Student Reps: Lauren Adleman, Adam Formica

Absent: Sue Sheffler
Special Education Director: Mark Ryder

*Student Reps exited meeting at 9:30 p.m.
Mr. Curran exited 9:45 and returned 9:47 pm.*

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

*Mr. Spangler thanked Ms. Burns for her work during the past year as Chair of the School Committee and presented her with a bouquet of flowers from the committee.
Ms. Burns thanked the committee, Barbara Goodman, John Bilafer and Susan Elberger for their support.*

VOTE FOR APPROVAL OF INTERIM ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Ms. Burns stated that she contacted the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) after last week's School Committee meeting to confirm the committee's authority on hiring an Interim Assistant Superintendent. After she contacted MASC, it was confirmed to her that the School Committee needed to vote on the hiring of an Interim Assistant Superintendent.

Ms. Burns and Mr. Curran both ascertained that Ms. Bodie did not go through the process correctly to bring a recommendation to the committee for approval. They both agreed that the position should have been posted internally to give others with experience an opportunity to apply.

Some members felt that adequate process to fill the position of Interim Assistant Superintendent had been followed and that the committee had directed Ms. Bodie in the fall to consult with MASC and the Massachusetts Association for School Superintendents (MASS) and search for a person to fill the position.

Dr. Bodie noted that usually an interim and/or acting position such as the Interim Assistant is appointed and does not get posted. If the position were for other than an interim position, then the process would include a search committee, and the job would be posted internally and external. Dr. Bodie reiterated that the Interim Assistant Superintendent position is for one year only.

Mr. Spangler recited Chapter 71, Section 59 Superintendent of Schools: Appointment: Duties and then asked the Superintendent to give to the School Committee a name of whom she would like appointed as Interim Assistant Superintendent, suggesting that the committee could vote to approve or disapprove this recommendation.

After additional discussion the following motion was made.

Mr. Curran directs the Superintendent to post for one week, position of Interim Assistant Superintendent, follow up with interested candidates, and have the Superintendent bring back recommendation to full committee, seconded by Ms. Burns.

Vote: 2-4

Roll Call: Mr. Thielman No, Ms. Heigham No, Mr. Spangler No, Mr. Curran Yes, Ms. Burns Yes, Mr. Curro No.

Motion fails

Dr. Bodie put forth Dr. Wallis Raemer for the position of Interim Assistant Superintendent for the 2009 - 2010 school year, stating that Dr. Raemer understands this is a one-year position, agrees with this opportunity, and will not return to Dallin School. Dr. Bodie summarized Dr. Raemer's résumé and her certifications.

Mr. Curro moved that the School Committee -- consistent with past practice of the Arlington Public Schools and in accordance with Mass. General Laws —hire an Interim Assistant Superintendent for one year with the existing job description, seconded Ms. Heigham.

Vote 4-1-1 Mr. Curran voting No, Ms. Burns abstained

Motion passes

Mr. Curro moved that the School Committee does accept Interim Superintendent Bodie's nomination of Dr. Wallis Raemer as Interim Assistant Superintendent, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Vote 5-1 Mr. Curran voting No

Motion passes

After a brief discussion it was stated that the Interim Assistant Superintendent would begin July 1, 2009.

**PER SUSPENSION OF POLICIES BGF THE FOLLOWING ARE FOR REVIEW:
SCHOOL ADMISSIONS - JF POLICY AND ENTRANCE AGE - JEB POLICY**

Mr. Curran reported on the previous Policy & Procedures Subcommittee meeting held prior to this meeting and the consensus was to abolish policy SCHOOL ADMISSIONS JF and maintain policy Entrance Age JEB in its present condition Mr. Curran recommended to abolish SCHOOL ADMISSION JF as a First Reading to the full committee and noted to strike reference of policy JF on ENTRANCE AGE JEB policy.

Mr. Spangler asked for Point of Order to have the actual policies SCHOOL ADMISSIONS JF AND ENTRANCE AGE JEB changes in hard copy for first reading on April 14, 2009 and a second reading on April 28, 2009.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

Ms. Burns noted the school budget continues to be reviewed but stated that the Committee can begin working with numbers.

Interim Superintendent Kathleen Bodie and Chief Financial Officer Sue Mazzarella attended a workshop with Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Commissioner Mitchell Chester on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA): Saving and Creating Jobs and Reforming Education on March 30, 2009. From this meeting Kathy and Sue have come to present the fiscal year 2010 Budget Update and to ask the School Committee to give feedback on how the \$914, 0289 State Fiscal Stabilization and \$749,327 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Stimulus money should be spent and saved for FY 10 and FY 11. Keeping in mind the amount is the intent Arlington Public Schools should receive but the reality is not guaranteed due to the state struggling with its own budget. To build a budget on shifted numbers and the limits on how to spend the funds are both risks, but Dr. Bodie stated a desire for a proposal.

Mr. Spangler noted that we do not have much time to get the Budget to the Finance Committee and suggested to Dr. Bodie that we receive a legal review from Town Counsel on what we can and cannot do within the letter of the law with Stimulus money, as opposed to what is the spirit of the law.

Mr. Spangler asked about the process and the changes to the timeline and stressed the Finance Committee is looking for a budget in early May.

After members discussed the school investments and the reductions from the three tiers the following motion was made.

Mr. Spangler motioned to direct the Interim Superintendent to build Fiscal Year 10 Budget, using the following data: except that amount of only \$400,000, seconded by Mr. Curran.

FY10 Revenue Projection	\$37,476,597	
(1.06% Reduction from FY09)		
FY10 State Fiscal Stabilization	\$ 914,028	
FY10 IDEA & PreK Funding	\$ 749,327	
FY10 Grant Revenue	\$ 2,623,868	
FY10 Revenue/Fee Projection	<u>\$ 3,898,250</u>	
Total Budget All Sources		\$45,662,100
FY10 Salary Commitment	\$33,626,599	
FY10 Expense Commitment	<u>\$12,918,185</u>	
Total Salaries & Expenses	<u>\$46,544,784</u>	
FY10 Projected Deficit		(\$ 882,684)

Vote 6-0

Ms. Heigham moved to have a Budget proposal to the committee April 14, 2009 and to have Hearing on Budget Tuesday, April 28, 2009.

Ms. Heigham withdrew motion

Mr. Thielman motioned to postpone Public Hearing on Budget FY 10 from April 14, 2009 to April 28, 2009 at 8:00 p.m., seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Vote 6-0

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Interim Superintendent Bodie congratulated the Honors Orchestra who performed for Massachusetts Music Educators at the Seaport Hotel last week and the students who performed in Of Thee We Sing. Student Government Day is May 7, 2009 as is the Math Fair at Arlington High School. Dr. Bodie stated she had received a letter from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) confirming their vote to invite Arlington to a feasibility study of the Thompson School. This is not approval of a project but an invitation to explore potential solutions to the problems that have been identified.

CHAIR REPORT

Ms. Burns reported on the AEEF Brian Bee held last week.

ROUNDTABLE

Mr. Curran moved to accept the second reading of policy Election of School Committee Officers -BDAA, seconded by Mr. Spangler.

Vote 6-0

First Reading of JCA

Interim Superintendent Bodie, Stoneman Chandler & Miller and the Policy and Procedures Subcommittee collaboratively worked to amend the Open Enrollment JCA policy. Ms. Burns summarized some of the changes; once a student was accepted into the school, that school becomes their district and the student would not have to apply for open enrollment each year. If a student wishes to return to their previous school district they would have to apply for Open Enrollment to go back. Mr. Curro specified that each color represented a change.

Committee members reported on various town wide events that members had attended: The Dallin Gala & the Cameron O'Connor Foundation.

SECRETARY REPORT

Mr. Spangler reported on correspondence received: Arlington High Schools Art Fair April 8 - 15th and the Pierce Art Show on April 3.

CONSENT AGENDA *all items listed with an asterisk (*) are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the committee so request, in which event the item will be considered in its normal sequence.*

*** Approval of Warrant # 09136 in the amount of \$ 521,275.92 dated March 24, 2009**

*** Approval of School Committee Meeting Minutes from March 10, 2009**

Mr. Spangler voted to accept the Consent Agenda, seconded by Mr. Curro

Vote 6:0

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Curro it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 10:31 p.m., seconded by Mr. Curran.

Vote 6-0

draft minutes from 3/24/2009 for review and approval on 4/14/09

Respectfully submitted by

Karen Fitzgerald

Administrative Assistant

Arlington School Committee / jc